

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 09497 311501Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 311414Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1851

INFO AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJECT: ORTA DOGU REPORTS KORUTURK TO RESIGN

1. THE DECEMBER 31 ORTA DOGU (A NEWSPAPER CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH ALPARSLAN TURKES' NATIONALIST ACTION PARTY) BANNER HEADLINED A STORY THAT PRESIDENT KORUTURK WILL SOON RESIGN DUE TO POOR HEALTH. THE ARTICLE, WHICH DID NOT CITE SOURCES, REPORTED THAT THE RESULTS OF AN INTENSIVE MEDICAL EXAMINATION HAVE BEEN SENT TO THE GOVERNMENT AND TO THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL (NSC). THE STORY ALSO SPECULATES THAT THERE IS A CONNECTION BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT'S ILL HEALTH AND THE RECENT RE-ASSIGNMENT OF THE JANDARMA COMMANDER TO THE POSITION OF NSC SECRETARY-GENERAL AND HIS NSC PREDECESSOR BEING TRANSFERRED TO THE POST OF DEPUTY COMMANDERS OF THE TURKISH GROUND FORCES. THE ARTICLE CONCLUDES BY DRAWING ATTENTION TO THE RECENT CLASH BETWEEN THE NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY AND THE PRESIDENT (SEPTOL) AND ASSERTS THAT KORUTURK IS ATTEMPTING TO BROADEN HIS AUTHORITY IN A MANNER WHICH WOULD HINDER THE OPERATIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT.

2. COMMENT: RUMORS OF KORUTURK'S ILL-HEALTH AND IMMINENT
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PAGE 02 ANKARA 09497 311501Z

RESIGNATION ARE REPORTED PERIODICALLY IN THE TURKISH

PRESS. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION AT THIS TIME WHICH WOULD
CONFIRM THIS RUMOR. IT IS ALSO LIKELY THAT ORTA DOGU
IS INDULGING IN WISHFUL THINKING; KORUTURK HAS LITTLE
REGARD FOR TURKES AND THE NAP.
MACOMBER

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